

REMARKS

This is supplemental to the response filed on October 23, 2006, and the telephone interviews with the Examiner on November 16 and 20, 2006. Applicants thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct the telephone interviews.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due consideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 6 and 12 are under consideration in this application. Claims 6 and 12 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicant's invention.

All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Interview Summary

The Examiner indicated during the telephone interview on November 16, 2006, that the claim amendments appeared to overcome the prior art of record. After reviewing our clarification of how a physical width of a pixel area can be compared with a half period of a brightness difference caused by flicker which appears to be a time period as recited in claims 6 and 12, the Examiner suggested amending a "period" into "interval width" on November 20, 2006, and suggested that we file a supplemental response to have the claim amendments formally considered.

The imaging system including a solid-state CMOS imaging device 10 and a signal processing semiconductor integrated circuit 20 for processing read-out signals of pixels 110 from said solid-state CMOS imaging device 10 of the invention (for example, the embodiment depicted in Figs. 11 and 12; p. 30, 2nd paragraph; p. 31, 2nd paragraph), as now recited in claim 6, comprises: first level detection means 24b which detects brightness on a first area shown in Fig. 12b (32 pixels * 1 line) set up on an imaging area of said solid-state CMOS imaging device, said first area comprising a pixel area having a width smaller than a half *interval width* of a brightness difference shaped in strips on the imaging area (p. 4, lines 1-3; Fig. 5) caused by flicker (p. 29, lines 21-22; "*light and dark spots (or difference in brightness)*" p. 3, lines 4-5); second level detection means 24a which detects brightness on a

second area shown in Fig. 12a (192 pixels * 96 lines) which is larger than said first area, said second area comprising a pixel area in which said brightness difference caused shaped in strips on the imaging area by flicker is substantially smoothed (p. 29, lines 16-17); judgment means which judges turning-on-and-off of a light source illuminating in accordance with an object to be imaged on the basis of detection levels of said first and second level detection means 24b, 24a; a control unit 30 for setting up an intensity of a read-out signal ("*the stored light amount (the intensity of the read-out signal of the pixel)*") p. 19, lines 3-4) for each pixel of said solid-state CMOS imaging device 10 by means of processing in accordance with a program which controls both a transmission gain of said read-out signal of each pixel and a number of charge storage lines constituted by horizontal scanning lines as a unit (p. 19, lines 8-11; p. 14, lines 5-8; p. 15, lines 7-9; p. 17, lines 1-3). The judgment of the turning-on-and-off of said light source illuminating in accordance with the object on the basis of the detection levels of said first and second level detection means 24b, 24a is performed by processing in accordance with the program in said control unit 30 which judges whether a difference between maximum brightness values MAXLs and minimum brightness values MINLs of the second area over a predetermined number (e.g., 8) of frames remain less than a predetermined value (e.g., 8.6%), and whether maximum brightness values MAXSs and minimum brightness values MINSs of the first area over a predetermined number of frames satisfy a predetermined relation (e.g., judgments 3-4 on p. 33, lines 7-10) (p. 31, line 17 to p. 34, line 1).

The invention recited in claim 12 is directed to the imaging system of claim 6, and further recites that the first area which is a predetermined area in a frame and that the second area is set up on an imaging area of said solid-state CMOS imaging device 10, and is a predetermined area in the frame. As the first and second areas which are predetermined areas in a frame, the invention can distinguish clearly from changes in photographic surroundings of the object and detect variation in the turning-on-and-off of the illumination light source by the first and second detection means (p. 39, lines 3-11).

As such, the present invention as now claimed is clarified, distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

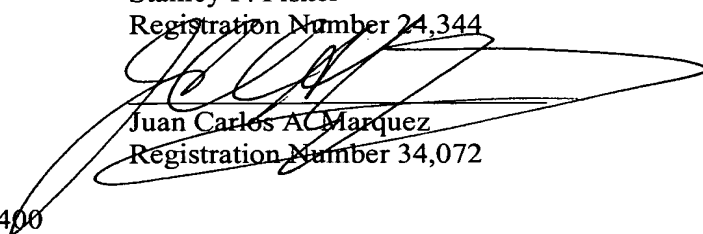
In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the

Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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